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FIRST COMMITTEE
34th meeting
held on
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at 11 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 34th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. von WAGNER (Germany)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 156: RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK AND REFORM OF THE AGENDA OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (continued) (A/C.1/48/L.58 and L.59)

Draft decision proposed by the Chairman on the organization of the work of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) (A/C.1/48/L.59)

1. Mr. VALENCIA (Ecuador) said that his delegation had followed with particular interest the informal consultations held by informal or special interest groups, including the non-aligned countries. It viewed the rationalization of the work of the First Committee within the larger context of the rationalization of the work of the General Assembly. His delegation welcomed the Chairman's efforts to facilitate the Committee's work and to ensure the most efficient use of the time and scarce resources available to it. The draft resolution originally proposed by the Chairman (A/C.1/48/L.58), now contained in the annex to document A/C.1/48/L.59, would form the basis for further consultations by the Chairman and the officers of the Committee in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 48/87. Its recommendations could be implemented informally and flexibly during the forty-ninth session, once the new Chairman and officers had assessed the current situation. On the basis of that informal exercise, the Committee could take a final decision and introduce any necessary changes. In the meantime, its work should be guided by the provisions of resolution 48/87 and the working paper presented by the Chairman. Those delegations which were particularly interested in the questions addressed by the First Committee should be guaranteed an opportunity to express their views during the ongoing consultations aimed at promoting the rationalization of the Committee's work. In conclusion, his delegation supported the draft decision, which reflected the views expressed during the informal consultations.

2. Draft decision A/C.1/48/L.59 was adopted without a vote.

3. Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee) said that he had informed the meeting of the General Assembly Coordination Committee of the situation with respect to agenda item 156. Every effort would be made to complete the report of the Rapporteur on the agenda item so that it could be considered by the plenary the following week.

4. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 156.

CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

5. The CHAIRMAN expressed the hope that the Committee would truly modernize its work by eliminating those items that were no longer relevant and addressing those which were, such as plutonium smuggling. A number of other items should be considered not only by special bodies but also by the First Committee.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.